

AFD SPIRIT



Publication of
the Amherst Fire
Department
Association

From the Chief's Desk

To start with I need to thank everyone for the warm welcome to Amherst. My family and I were very touched and impressed with the attendance and people at the badge pinning and welcoming party. This confirmed we have made the right decision and are excited to become active members of the Amherst community and part of the AFD family. My wife Cynthia received a promotion at TPI employment to be general manager of the Milford office. We are delighted things are falling into place making the transition and move easier.

Most know I officially started July 19th and the first two weeks were a wild ride. My feet had barely touched the ground with half dozen calls in Amherst and three days of fighting forest fires in Milford. The



first Milford fire was on the end of Summer Street and went to

five alarms. The Fire was just over 3 acres in rough terrain on the Milford and Amherst line. Crews battled the fire well into the night and returned the following day for six hours of mop up. Amherst crews did an excellent job putting three trucks on the road (and off) then stopped the head of the fire on the Amherst line between Summer Street in Milford and Lyndeborough Road in Amherst. With thousands of feet of hose still on the ground a second forest fire in Milford was reported on the third day for another 8 hours of firefighting and mop-up.

My family and I became

official residents of Amherst August 2nd with the purchase of a home at 27 Pinewood Drive. Feel free to swing by and say "Hi" anytime.

In closing I have to say I have been truly impressed with the dedication and pride the members have displayed the last several weeks. AFD clearly lives by the words written on the side of our apparatus: "Pride, Tradition, Spirit". It is evident every member is a professional and proud to protect and serve the citizens of Amherst as well as surrounding communities in a time of need.

Keep up the good work.

Mark Boynton
Fire Chief

AFD Members Receive their CDL-B



On an somewhat overcast but warm day, seven mem-

bers of the Amherst Fire Department were greeted by NH State Trooper Jeffrey Bonan in order to take the skills portion of the Commercial Driver's License Exam (CDL). Class B. All members had taken and passed a state administered written exam.

The testing was the

culmination of several weeks of training and driving. John Leonard, Dan Bonenfant, Mark LaFlamme, Chris Buchanan, Brian Gleason, Eric Miron, and Erik Swenson now begin the process of getting trained to become drivers for the AFD. Congrats members!

Volume 1, Issue 1
July/August 2010

This Months

Highlights:

- *Message from the new Chief*
- *AFD Members receive their CDL Class B Licenses*
- *Promotional Process to begin in September*
- *AFD Open House planned for September Fire Prevention Week—More in next issue!*

Inside this issue:

*AFD Members receive 1
CDL's*

*AFD Goes Mutual 2
Aid to Bedford*

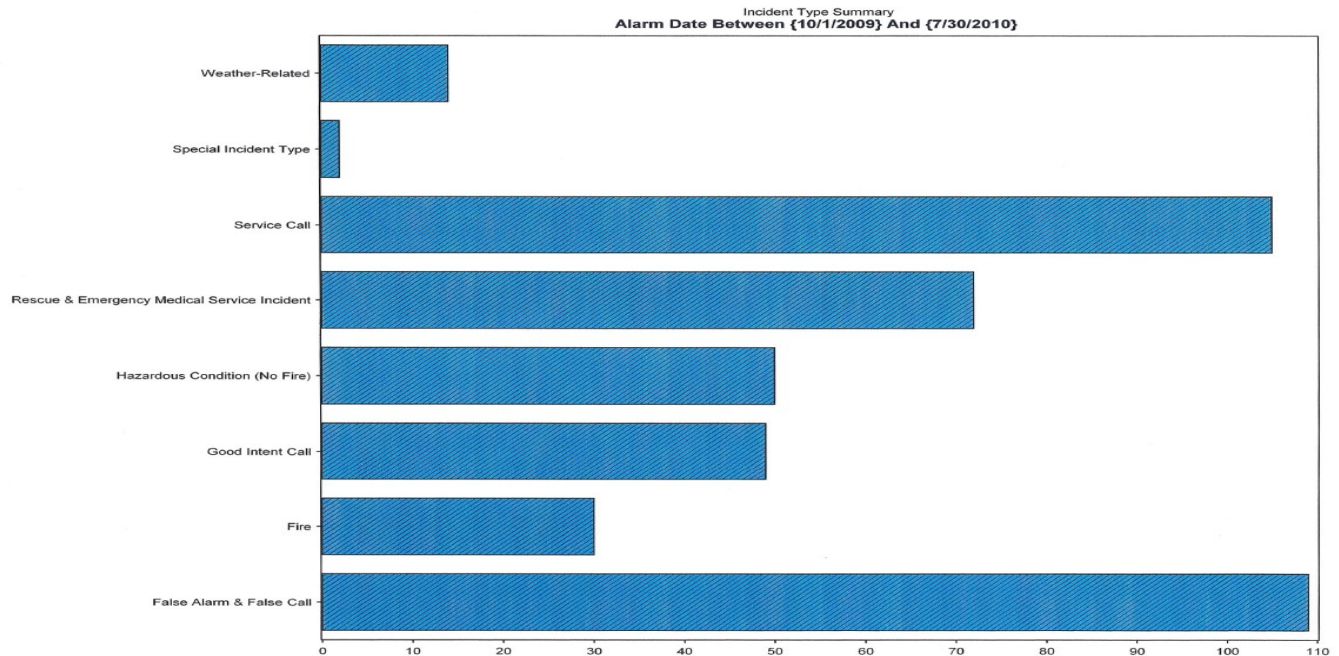
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AFD Run Stats—October 2009 to July 2010



AFD Goes Mutual Aid to Bedford Twice in one Week

The Amherst Fire Department was called and responded mutual aid to the Town of Bedford twice in one week during the month of July.

Over the course of several days, Bedford had two structure fires, one commercial and one residential. On both fires, Amherst was called to provide a "Rapid Intervention Team" or RIT. Rapid Intervention Teams are put in place to assist firefighters that may get into trouble while fighting a fire. RIT teams are specially training in the use

of rescue techniques to locate and rescue lost or injured fire fighters.

The first request came in the early hours of July 6th when a second alarm fire was reported at the NH Housing Finance Commissions offices off Constitution Road. The second fire, just a couple days later was at a residence on Freedom Way. Both fires were in the attic and were quickly extinguished. The AFD had several members recently RIT certified by the state at a joint class given in Milford.



Fire Prevention Reminder

A reminder from the AFD that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors should be tested at least monthly and the batteries replaced every six months.

There are usually a couple simple reminders during the year that will help you mark your calendar.

First, you can use the Daylight Saving's Time and the turning of the clocks. Or better (or worse perhaps) upon your

bi-annual visit to the dentist.

Keeping batteries fresh will ensure that your detector won't fail you in the event you have a fire.

Of course if you have smoke in your house, get outside and dial 9-1-1

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to the very dry conditions, always check with Amherst Fire Department before conducting any outside burn (including

the use of a chimineas and fire pits/bowls). A permit is required. Call Amherst Dispatch (603.673.4900) or Deputy Conley (603.673.1545) to see if permits are being issued!



July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Schedule of Events— July/August 2010

- July 3rd—Fireworks at Souhegan HS
- July 4th—Parade
- July 6th—Monthly Department Meeting
- July 19th—Chief Boynton joins AFD—Welcome!
- July 19th—Company Drill—Vehicle Extrication
- July 26th—Officers Meeting
- August 2nd—Monthly Department Meeting
- August 9th / 16th—Company Drills—Pump Operations
- August 23—Officer's Meeting
- Coming in September—Open House at AFD

Promotional Process Begins at AFD

In June Deputy Chief Disco announced that the AFD would begin the Officer Promotional Process during the summer and early fall. Entrants needed to provide a Letter of Intent by June 21st.

The promotional process will occur during several weeks in September and October and includes a written exam, oral board review and chief's interviews.

Good luck to AFD members that have entered the process!

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



AFD at a working basement fire in December 2008.

Amherst Fire Department

177 Amherst St.
Amherst, NH 03031
Phone: 603.673.1545
Emergency: 9-1-1

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on Facebook!*

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easwenson@comcast.net*

The AFD Mission: Amherst Fire Department is committed to the preservation of life and property through highly developed skills in fire suppression, rescue and community awareness of the dangers of fire. We are proud members of our community that respond 24 hours per day, 365 days a year as we have done for over 200 years.

Do you think you have what it takes? Inquire about becoming a call firefighter by calling 603.673.1545 or ask one of us when you see us around town.

Amherst and Milford jointly form the Souhegan Valley Explorers, Post 622

For many years, the towns of Amherst and Milford had explorer programs that had all but faded in the past several years. But Exploring is back in Souhegan Valley!

Exploring is a career focused program sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America. Exploring programs can cover many different career paths such as Business, Engineering, Civics, but for us it is all about Emergency Services!

Explorer Post 622 was created as a joint venture between Amherst and Milford Fire, EMS, and Police to provide a wide breadth of opportunity for youths in the community. Currently there are 10 members of Post 622 guided by adult leaders in the various emergency service organizations of each town.

Plans are underway for the Post to sponsor a Fireman's Muster in early October at Hampshire Hills. More than 40 posts from around NH may participate. Please keep an eye out for advertising regarding this event. Explorer Posts are self sufficient and raise funds to promote training of the members, procuring gear and uniforms and attending events.

The program provides a great way for young adults to work first hand in a chosen discipline as they look forward to their own careers.

